

ENERGY & AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

April 25, 2000

Members Present:

John Ray (Chair)
Bernard Bordenick
Doug Canter
Stan Doore
Jeffrey Komarow
Susan Mitchell
Ed Ohanian
Charlie Wilkes

Members Absent:

Morris Altschuler
Hans Ashar
Bob Brown
Carolyn Elefant (V-chair)
Neal Goldenberg
Milt Minneman
Ron White

Staff:

Ann Elsen
Sam Johnson

The Chair, John Ray, called the April 25, 2000 EAQAC meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lobby Level Conference Room of the Executive Office Building in Rockville. The summary of the March 29, 2000 EAQAC meeting was approved with one spelling correction.

Sam Johnson announced his resignation from DEP. He thanked EAQAC members for their participation in the Committee and their assistance with Chapter 3, and said that his experience working with EAQAC has been an enjoyable one.

Volunteer Registration forms are needed from members who have not yet submitted them. Members should send them to Ann Elsen.

Selection Committee:

A committee to select new EAQAC members will meet and interview candidates during the coming weeks. Ann will schedule interviews and coordinate with selection committee members and alternates.

EAQAC Policy:

The chair reemphasized the EAQAC policy that letters reflecting the opinions or advice of EAQAC should be sent under the chair's signature. Individual members should not address correspondence to County government officials using EAQAC's name or implying that the opinions presented represent EAQAC consensus. Blind copies of EAQAC correspondence to County officials violate this policy.

Air Quality and Health:

A letter was sent from the EAQAC chair to the president of the County Council expressing EAQAC's support of the Board of Education's budget request for maintenance funds. The funds are to provide staff, equipment, and training to maintain plant operations in the schools and prevent indoor air quality problems. Charles Wilkes will forward a copy of the letter to the BOE committee on facilities management.

Sam Johnson completed a draft of Chapter 3 and sent it to the chief of DEPC and to the County attorney. EAQAC testimony might be beneficial if hearings are held on Chapter 3 by the County Council. Ann Elsen will provide the Committee with updates on the status of Chapter 3. It is expected that regulations will not be required prior to implementation of Chapter 3, and if they are needed a determination will probably be made by the County attorney.

Transportation:

A CNG compressor is being provided on a temporary basis for use in fueling the County fleet. Washington Gas has an experimental tariff with a government rate for transportation fuel. The County has purchased nineteen new CNG busses, and is making upgrades to refueling stations.

Energy:

Thanks in part to the support and guidance of EAQAC, the County now has an active consumer education campaign on electric utility deregulation. A Power Shopping web page can be accessed through the County main page or through askDEP.com. A tabletop display is being used at local events, press releases have been issued, and cable and public access television spots have been aired. EAQAC members suggested presentations at meeting of local Rotary Clubs, Lions clubs, and home fairs. Members will notify Ann Elsen of dates and contacts for these events.

Science Fair:

The Science Fair Subcommittee has, in its possession, several copies of the name and addresses of this year's winners. Both winning projects were air quality studies involving particulates; one of indoor vs. outdoor air quality in Argentina vs. the U.S., and one of outdoor air quality at various sites in the County. Photos of the projects will go on the EAQAC web site. Stan Doore will draft descriptions of the two projects for the web site and a possible press release. He has already made a request of the Rotary Club to provide another \$100 for next year's prizes.

Web Site:

DEP will look in to the feasibility of registering the domain name, EAQAC.org and hosting the web page on the DEP site. The web page currently has links from the County page, the Power Shopping page, and the statewide consumer education web site provided by the Public Service Commission. The EAQAC web site is also provided as a source of additional information in the PSC brochure on environmental issues effecting choice of a power supplier. Some of the information currently on the web site needs to be updated.

Strategic Planning:

A resolution for participation in the Cities for Climate Protection campaign was sent to the County Executive's office to be forwarded to the Council. Ann will keep the Committee updated on the status of the resolution.

The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 p.m.